



## 1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 779

February 10, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives GROTHMAN, HAHN, ZIEGELBAUER, J. LEHMAN, AINSWORTH and MUSSER. Referred to Committee on Campaign Finance Reform.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 25.42; and *to create* 11.19 (6) of the statutes; **relating to:**  
2             disposition of residual campaign funds by candidates and personal campaign  
3             committees.

---

### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, residual funds remaining when a person who is required to register under the campaign financing law disbands or ceases incurring obligations, making disbursements or accepting contributions may be used for any lawful political purpose, returned to the original contributors or donated to a charitable organization or the common school fund.

This bill limits the amount of unencumbered funds that a candidate for legislative office or such a candidate's personal campaign committee may carry over from a general election campaign to another campaign to not more than \$5,000 in the case of a candidate for representative to the assembly and \$10,000 in the case of a candidate for state senator. The bill permits a candidate or committee having an unencumbered balance in a campaign depository exceeding this amount to transfer the excess amount to a charitable organization or the Wisconsin election campaign fund. Under the bill, any unencumbered balance exceeding this amount which remains in the campaign depository account of such a candidate or committee on January 31 following a general election must be transferred by the candidate or committee to the common school fund.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 779**

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

---

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 11.19 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

2           11.19 (6) No candidate or personal campaign committee of a candidate for  
3 legislative office at the general election may retain in a campaign depository account  
4 beyond December 31 of an even-numbered year unencumbered funds equal to more  
5 than \$5,000 in the case of a candidate for representative to the assembly and \$10,000  
6 in the case of a candidate for state senator. During the 30-day period beginning on  
7 January 1 following a general election, a candidate or committee having  
8 unencumbered funds in a campaign depository account that may not be retained  
9 under this subsection may donate the excess funds to a charitable organization or the  
10 Wisconsin election campaign fund. A candidate or committee shall transfer to the  
11 state treasurer for deposit in the common school fund any unencumbered funds  
12 remaining in a campaign depository account on January 31 following a general  
13 election that may not be retained under this subsection.

14           **SECTION 2.** 25.42 of the statutes is amended to read:

15           **25.42 Wisconsin election campaign fund.** All moneys appropriated under  
16 s. 20.855 (4) (b) together with all moneys deposited under s. 11.19 (6), all moneys  
17 reverting to the state under s. 11.50 (8) and all gifts, bequests and devises received  
18 under s. 11.50 (13) constitute the Wisconsin election campaign fund, to be expended  
19 for the purposes of s. 11.50. All moneys in the fund not disbursed by the state  
20 treasurer shall continue to accumulate indefinitely.

21

(END)